Electrification of villages under RGREP in Kerala

4451. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for Rural electrification under Rajeev Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme;

(b) if so, the details including the number of villages proposed for electrification and the fnd allotted for the same, State-wise, category-wise as on today;

(c) whether there is any proposal from Kerala State for electrification of villages of Kerala under Rajeev Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme;

(d) if so, the details including the numebr of villages proposed for the programme, District-wise as on today; and

(e) the details of funds proposed to sanction for the above programme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

A new Scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and household Electrification has been launched for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of providing access to electricity to all Rural Household in five years. The scheme would be implemented through Rural Electrification Corporation.

Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for projects for:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66/11kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations and provision of distribution transformer(s) of appropriate capacity in every village/habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from conventional sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).

The scheme *inter alia* provides for financing of electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households inthe country with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme in all rural habitations.

For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under this scheme prior commitment of the State would be taken before sanction of the projects for:

(i) deployment of franchisees for the management of rural distribution in projects financed under this scheme;

(ii) provision of requisite revenue subsidy to the State utilities as required under the Electricity Act., 2003.

The State would also be required to make adequate arrangements for supply of electricity and there should be no discrimination in the hours of supply between rural and urban households.

The scheme covers the entire country and the funds would be released on the basis of sanction of the projects submitted. The scheme aims at completing electrification of all unelectrified villages and unelectrified hamlets in next five years. It is estimated that Rs. 16,000 crore would be required for the entire scheme. For Phase I of scheme approved for implementation during 10th Five Year Plan Period Rs. 5,000 crore has been provided by the Central Government as Capital subsidy.

(c) to (e) All the villages Kerala are electrified. However, proposal for electrification of 3367 un-electrified karas in 879 villages of 14 districts involving an outlay of Rs. 337 crore have been received by the REC. These are under process by the REC.

Option of Choosing Power Distributing Company by Consumers

†4452. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact under the Electricity Act, 2003 the consumers of electricity have been empowered to get their power connections from a power distributing company of their choice;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.